

Notes on People

Bush Congratulated by Reds

The newly nominated Director of Central Intelligence, **George Bush**, got a round of congratulatory handshakes from Communist diplomats in Peking yesterday. Mr. Bush, chief representative of the United States in the Chinese capital, attended a reception at the Soviet Embassy marking the 58th anniversary of Russia's October Revolution.

Mr. Bush was greeted first by the Soviet Ambassador, **Vasily S. Tolstikov**, and later other Communist envoys proffered hands, if not necessarily state secrets. Chinese representation at the Soviet celebration was what is known in diplomatic circles as "low-key," meaning low level. It was headed by a Vice Foreign Minister, **Yu Chan**, who leads the Chinese side at the deadlocked Chinese-Soviet border negotiations.

Dancers and bands joined **President Habib Bourguiba** of Tunisia in welcoming **President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing** of France to Tunis yesterday. Close to 300,000 Tunisians turned out to greet the first French head of state to visit since the country became independent from France in 1956.

"I like to have people share poetry with me," said **Helen Burns**, wife of the Federal Reserve Board chairman, explaining why she invited nearly 170 women friends to a poetry-reading luncheon at Washington's Watergate apartment complex, where she lives with her husband **Arthur**. Among those reading their own poems or those of children, grandchildren or well-known poets of their nations were **Irina Dobrynin**, **Sueko Yasukawa**, **Frances Ramsbotham** and **Nadina Dimitriou**, wives of the Soviet, Japanese, British and Cypriot Ambassadors.

In a telephone interview later, Mrs. Burns said it was her seventh such luncheon and she described the poems as "little gems."

He was taking a shower when the fire started in his condominium building yesterday, said **Ed McMahon**, who lost much of the contents of his apartment at Marina del Rey, a boat basin near Los Angeles. The announcer and entertainer said firemen were arriving by the time he ran out to the fire alarm, after smelling smoke. "At first I thought it was the hair dryer I was using," he explained.

Vernon R. Alden, chairman of Brown University's search committee for a new president, called a news conference to deny an article in *The Providence Evening Bulletin*, reported in this column yesterday, which reported that Mr. Alden expected **Vice President Rockefeller** to be up for consideration for the job. Mr. Alden said that Mr. Rockefeller's name had not been submitted nor did he expect him to seek the position and that he had not been considered at the committee's meeting Wednesday.

In a depressingly familiar plot-line, **Jean Arthur** has wound up in the hospital after 11 performances at the Cleveland Playhouse in "The First Monday in October," a new play written for her by **Jerome Lawrence** and **Robert E. Lee**. The 67-year-old actress and **Melvin Douglas** opened Oct. 17 after a month of rehearsals with the resident company, receiving good notices despite critics' reservations about the play. On Oct. 29 Miss Arthur "played a very weak performance, with lots of coughing," a Playhouse spokesman said,

and was hospitalized for a viral infection.

It was the first professional role to lure Miss Arthur from her Carmel, Calif., hideaway since 1967, when her "exhaustion" closed "The Freaking Out of Stephanie Blake" on Broadway. Illness also canceled her planned 1946 version of "Born Yesterday" and 1954 tour with "St. Joan." Miss Arthur is reported "hopeful" about returning to the Playhouse for the last week of the play, which is scheduled to close Nov. 15.

Kate Smith, the 66-year-old singer, will be third female Grand Marshal of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses. Her predecessors were **Shirley Temple** in 1939 and **Mary Pickford** in 1933.

Beginning a three-day visit to Britain, **President Anwar el-Sadat** of Egypt was **Queen Elizabeth's** guest of honor at a Buckingham Palace luncheon for 40 guests where he introduced his son and three daughters to the Queen. **President Sadat** was met at the airport by **Prime Minister Harold Wilson** and later reviewed the Palace Guard with **Prince Charles**.

Barbara Duchess von Mecklenburg, grandniece of the last Czar of Russia and heir to his German property, has turned down a \$200,000 bid from the Hare Krishna religious sect to turn her 700-year-old castle on the Rhine, **Burg Rheinstein**, into a temple. To the relief of the German Castle Association, the duchess has accepted a \$132,000 bid from **Herman Hecher**, an Austrian opera singer, and promised to help him preserve the rock-perch citadel.

Laurie Johnston